

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00643 050635Z
ACTION NEA-10

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NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /057 W
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R 041500Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8931
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IS, JO
SUBJ: TWO DEAD IN WEST BANK DEMONSTRATIONS

1. TWO WEST BANK ARABS WERE SHOT AND KILLED BY ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS MAY 3 IN THE VILLAGE OF QABATIYAH NEAR JENIN.
2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AND CONVERSATION WITH THE MAYOR OF JENIN, BILAB ABU ROB, 14, DIED INSTANTLY WHEN HE WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD BY AN ISRAELI SOLDIER RIDING IN A TANK TRUCK WHICH HAD BEEN STOPPED BY ROAD BLOCK AND STONED ON THE MAIN ROAD RUNNING THROUGH QABATIYAH BY YOUNGSTERS PROTESTING, IN SOLIDARITY WITH NABLUS, ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.
3. FATMA YUSIF (HAMDI OR MOHAMAD), A 55 YEAR OLD WOMAN DIED FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS DURING THE FUNERAL OF ABU ROB WHEN A JEEP OF ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES ON THE SCENE WAS ATTACKED WITH STONES AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS. AT LEAST THREE OTHER ARABS WERE

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INJURED; TWO OF THEM HOSPITALIZED. FIVE SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED INJURED.

4. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE NABLUS REGION HAS BEEN UNSETTLED LATELY BECAUSE OF MEIR KAHANE'S VISIT TO NABLUS AND THE NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENT AT MESHAH. MOREOVER, APRIL 29, AL QUDS CARRIED A STORY, APPARENTLY BASED ON REPORTS IN THE HEBREW

PRESS, THAT A GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS GROUP CALLED DOTAN HAVE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SETTLE A SITE NEAR JENIN. ACCORDING TO AL QUDS, A NUMBER OF ISRAELI MINISERS HAVE APPROVED THE PLAN.

5. COMMENT: MAY 3 FATALITIES ARE THE FIRST DURING DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE WEST BANK SINCE FALL, 1976. IN RECENT MONTHS, SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN RELYING PRIMARILY ON NON-LETHAL MEANS TO CONTROL CROWDS. ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY THAT SOLDIER IN INITIAL INCIDENT WAS UNPREPARED FOR CONFRONTATION, AND, HENCE, MAY HAVE HAD NO RECOURSE BUT TO SHOOT, WE QUESTION WISDOM OF AN ISRAELI SECURITY PRESENCE AT SUCH AN INFLAMMATORY EVENT AS A "MARTYR'S FUNERAL AT ALL, AND CERTAINLY WITH ONLY LETHAL FORCE AS A MEANS OF MAINTAINING ORDER. ALSO, QUESTION WILL BE APPROVAL, IF IT IS FORTHCOMING, FOR GUSH EMUNIM PLANS TO MARCH THROUGH SEVERAL AREAS OF THW WEST BANK MAY 14 AND 15. (SEPTTEL) DURING PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF TENSION.
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